

Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SCI-06 NSF-04 ABF-01 OMB-01 FS-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 DODE-00

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66603

DRAFTED BY: SMI:LMAKEPEACE:KSCHMERTZ

APPROVED BY: SCI/SA:AERICHMOND, JR.

NEA/INC:DKUX

SMI:WCOERR:SDRIPLEY

----- 017050

R 131542Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 029215

PASS WAYNE MILLS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, IN

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP: PAYMENT OF COSTS TO GOI FOR MEDICAL
EVACUATION OF SECRETARY RIPLEY

REF: NEW DELHI 1466

1. REFTEL INDICATED GOI BILL EXPECTED SHORTLY, THOUGH NOT YET
RECEIVED, FOR COSTS INCURRED BY IAF DURING EMERGENCY MEDICAL
EVAUATION OF SECRETARY RIPLEY FROM BAGDOGRA TO CALCUTTA.
EMBASSY ALSO ANTICIPATES POSSIBILITY BILL MAY BE PRESENTED FOR
HELICOPTER FLIGHT FROM BHUTAN TO BAGDOGRA.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH GOI BILL, RIPLEY WISHES POINT OUT THAT
CARIBOU CARGO PLANE WAS FULLY LOADED WITH INDIAN SOLDIERS
AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING SPARE AIRPLANE ENGINE, AND THUS PRI-
MARILY DEVOTED TO INDIAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. RIPLEY, WIFE
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AND TWO DAUGHTERS, AND INDIAN ORNITHOLOGIST SALIM ALI, WITH

ABOUT 12 PIECES LUGGAGE AND EQUIPMENT, CONSTITUTED ONLY MINOR PART OF TOTAL LOAD. WITH REGARD TO CHARGES "INCLUDING POSITIONING AND RETURN TO BASE FLIGHTS ETC", SINCE IAF DEVOTED FLIGHT LARGELY TO OWN PURPOSES THIS CHARGE MIGHT APPEAR UNAPPLICABLE.

3. SECRETARY RIPLEY MENTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE CHARGES FOR HELICOPTER THAT IT BORE PERSONAL INSIGNIA OF KING OF BHUTAN AND WAS ON ASSIGNMENT FOR KING'S PERSONAL USE. IT MAY, THEREFOR, BE THAT NO BILL WILL BE SUBMITTED.

4. SECRETARY RIPLEY HAS ALREADY WRITTEN APPROPRIATE INDIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND, OF COURSE, HAS NO OBJECTION TO PAYMENT OF PERTINENT COSTS.

5. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THESE CONSIDERATIONS WITH GOI. EMBASSY REQUESTED REPORT TO SMI GOI REACTION AND DETAILS OF ANY BILLS SUBMITTED. SMI WILL NOTIFY EMBASSY PROMPTLY THEREAFTER CONCERNING DISBURSEMENT AUTHORIZATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE029215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMI:LMAKEPEACE:KSCHMERTZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740235/aaaabgrn.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SMI
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 1466
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP: PAYMENT OF COSTS TO GOI FOR MEDICAL EVACUATION OF SECRETARY RIPLEY
TAGS: OSCI, IN
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005